

Luxembourg, 17 July 2024

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet¹

Overview

Project Name:	CRYSTAL FIBRE ROLLOUT
Project Number:	2023-0615
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	Design and rollout of a Fibre to the Home (FTTH) broadband network throughout Germany, with a focus on sub-urban and rural areas.
EIA required:	No
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ² :	No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Investments in fixed telecommunication projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) are not listed in Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Therefore an EIA procedure is not required. Fixed telecommunications systems have minor environmental effects, apart from some disturbances during work execution, which can be mitigated by appropriate measures.

In order to minimize the impact during construction, the promoter will make use of existing infrastructure to the possible extent. The network will be deployed in underground ducts and manholes along existing roads in the project's residential areas, where small street cabinets will be located.

Telecommunication networks are basic components to digitalise the economy. Therefore, they are essential to enable the deployment of low-carbon or decarbonised technologies, leading to significant sustainability benefits across the national economy and fulfil the Paris Alignment criteria so as set out in the EIB CBR (Climate Bank Roadmap).

¹ The information contained in the document reflects the requirement related to the environmental, social and climate information to be provided to Investment Committee as required by the Invest EU Regulation and it represents the equivalent of the information required in the template of the InvestEU sustainability proofing summary

² Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20 000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



Luxembourg, 17 July 2024

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope but it is screened out of the PATH Framework because it is neither a high-emitting nor a highly-vulnerable entity.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter publishes a chapter on environmental protection, which is part of its annual report, highlighting the main environmental and social activities undertaken.

The expansion of the fibre network will contribute to increase the FTTH competition and allow for more affordable and better high-speed broadband products. Investments in the FTTH significantly improve the quality of broadband services, with widely reported positive social benefits such as enabling teleworking solutions thereby reducing the need for travel with reduced CO₂ emissions, enabling the use of cloud computing solutions with energy efficiency gains, the delivery of e-health and tele-education services to underserved regions, and supporting regional development through the development of a sufficient ICT network.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects have limited environmental effects, apart from minor disturbances during work execution, which can be mitigated by implementing appropriate measures.

Investments in FTTH roll-out significantly improve the quality of broadband services, with widely reported positive social benefits.

Sustainability proofing conclusion: The Project is carried out in compliance with applicable national and EU environmental and social legislation. Based on the environmental, climate and social information and based on the review of the likely significant environmental, climate and social risks and impacts and the mitigation measures and management systems in place, the Project is deemed to have low residual environmental, climate and social risks and impacts. No further sustainability proofing is therefore required.

In light of the above, the project has been found to be acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.